

mation concerning Bank's *Florilegium* and an extensive index. Overall this is a fine account, and comes highly recommended.

BEE FONG GUNN
76 Wulagi Crescent,
SANDERSON NT 5793 Australia.

Frogs of the Northern Territory

by Michael J. Tyler and Margaret Davies

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Pp. vi+77; 39 Figs; 49 Col. Pls; R.R.P.: \$7.00

For someone trying to come to grips with the frog fauna of the Northern Territory, this slim volume is unsurpassed in its content and accuracy. The reason is that Mike Tyler and Margaret Davies remain the most active amphibian systematists operating in Australia generally, and in the Northern Territory specifically. Indeed, of the 45 species identified in the Territory, 20 were originally described by the present authors, either individually or jointly with other colleagues.

The chief advantage of this volume is its presentation: it has soft covers, measures 165 x 240mm and is easily carried as a field guide. The first part of the book comprises a general introduction, followed by sections on: names of frogs; their external features; the frog fauna of the N.T.; sexual differences; enemies; reproduction; habitats; collecting and legislation. These brief introductory sections provide the reader with the very basic information necessary for capturing and identifying species. My only criticism of the presentation of this information is essentially an editorial one. Each of the sections starts on a separate page regardless of its size. The result is that large areas of blank paper necessarily appear when sections are small. This is also inconsistent with latter parts of the book which are in a continuous format.

The second part of the book consists of species descriptions. Each species is individually listed in alphabetic sequence. The

species name is provided, although unfortunately the authors have not followed systematic practice and included the names of the workers who described the beast. A plate citation is then noted, so that the reader can refer to the photographic section in the centre of the book to see what the animal looks like. A brief description, remarks on biology, distribution, the origin of the species name, and general comments then follow. A detailed map showing known point locations is included for each species, or in some cases several species. This is easily the best approach to plotting distributions, for one may be able to find new extensions of a species range, without the vagaries of a shaded overlay.

The photographic section has been included in the middle of the book. Six clear colour plates are grouped on each page, and while it is usually preferable to have a photograph of the animal accompanying its description text, this means of presentation is cheaper and it also permits comparisons between other closely related species which is a definite advantage for a volume of this type. Only three of the 45 species do not have colour photographs. This is hardly surprising when one considers the beasts involved: *Raniidella remota*, which is very similar to *R. bilingua* and can only be separated with great difficulty; *Uporelia micromeles*, which is known from one locality in the Tanami